

Rev. J. A. Stephan

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN MISSIONS

SUN BUILDING , N^o 1315 F Street

Washington, D. C., Dec. 13th, 1887

Dear Miss K. M. Drexel,

Your welcome letter with enclosures is received. I thank you for your long, plain and good explanations. I think that you greatly overestimate the cost. It will not cost in the long run more than any other schools. I wrote to the Archbishops of Chicago and Milwaukee, and the Bishops of Fort Wayne and Peoria, and received encouraging answers from them. Bishop Dwenger of Fort Wayne has just removed his orphans from the farm to Fort Wayne and left the orphan farm vacant. He wishes to sell it to us. There are a good many buildings on it, also a chapel, etc. and about 200 acres of land. It is 73 miles from Chicago on the Railroad, in a good location with plenty of wood and water. The buildings with little repair will do. The Bishop will sell the place cheap. I think we can buy the whole place from \$15,000 to \$18,000. Furniture we can buy cheap there. The whole thing, including farm, buildings, furniture, teams, cows, etc. will not exceed \$25,000.00 and perhaps less.

Father Willard has to go to New York on business this week and will stop in Philadelphia to see you. I shall talk it fully over with him and he can give you all my views better than I can write them down.

Archbishop Riordan applied for help for St. Turibius Ind. Mission Lake Co. California where the Franciscan fathers of St. Louis, Mo. Established an Ind. Mission 2 months ago. I will get a contract for the school January next. Rev. Perrig S.J. writes to me under date Dec. 7th that he has 75 children in school and that he did not get his pay for the last quarter; this is his own fault! He gave his report to the agent, a month ago as he writes—and left it there instead to get it signed and send it to me, who is the responsible contractor. The said vouchers have neither arrived in this or the Indian office up to this hour. He also states that the agent is hostile to him and shall have said the fathers should and would not have a contract after the 1st of July next. Instead of being kind, sociable & prudent, they go according to their own notions and whims and when everything is upset, they throw the bundle of troubles, seasoned with madness, and command to fix the matters up with the government.

Now to your questions—

1. Fort Berthold; no necessity for a school, as the Gov't has taken all the children of school age to Fort Stevenson Gov't Ind. School and room is left for more. Five years ago I requested

Bishop Marty to send a missionary to Fort Berthold, but the cool answer was: wait a while. Now when it is too late, we want to do something!

2. Have written to Bishop Brondel to give me a full explanation of his Ind. Schools; and according to his answer, which I Shall forward to you, the decision will be made.

3. The meaning of the payments at Fort Belknap is entirely different from your idea; likewise the one at Fort Peck.

4. Alaska contracts are lost.

5. Will send \$100. To Rev. Brunell if answers favorable to my questions.

6. A boarding school at Potrero or Banning should be established.

7. The bills, as you requested to be send, by express. If any other bill is desired, I shall forward it with pleasure.

8. Will send \$300. (or maybe \$600) as you requested, to Rev. Pius. He has got notification since Nov. 13th that 30 bedsteads shipped to him.

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